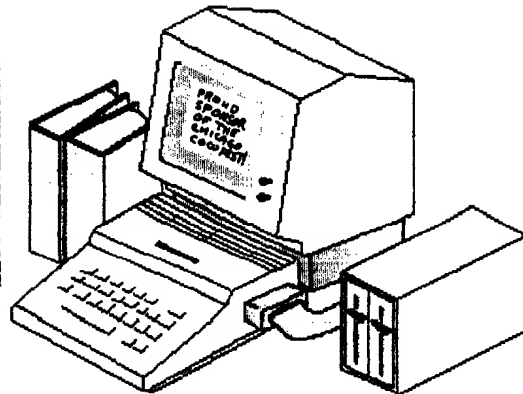


COCO~123

AUGUST, 1996 VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 3



The President's /term

by Rob Gibons

for those of you that missed this year's fest, well you're in luck, as now there WILL be a 6th Last Annual Chicago CoCoFEST sponsored by Glenside! Watch the CoCo~123 for further details.

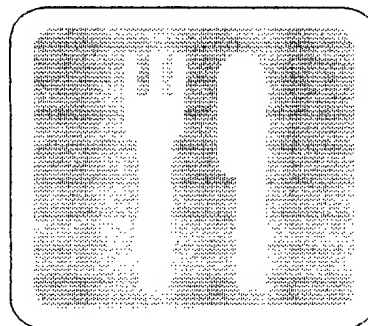
Well, I want to begin by thanking both this year's fest community members and members at large, that pitched in at the fest, helping out at the front door, the Glenside booth and with the various seminars. You all deserve a well earned pat on the back! I'd like to thank you all by name, but I'm afraid I'll leave someone out, so thanks to everyone, you know who you are.

As to this year's fest itself, while attendance and vendor participation were down from previous years, we all still had a great time and all the vendors present were interested in coming back! This year we sold out of Tee-shirts, so if you didn't get one at the fest, you're not going to get one. After that wonderful music/midi seminar, all the midi packs we had at the show were gone. If you did not get one and are still interested, I think we may have a few left that were not completed at the time. All in all, I consider this year's fest a success.

Now, as to next year's fest, we of course will be needing help throughout the coming year to get ready. As soon as the details are set, we want to start advertising (the sooner the better). We

need help in lining up seminars and a speaker. New vendors or representation for those that, due to distance, cannot get here would be great. If anyone is interested in helping IN ANY WAY, contact me, and I or next year's Fest Coordinator will be happy to put you to work. Let's make next year's fest better than ever.

PICNIC



PICNIC

It's burgers, brats, bun time, again. Bring your DTP (dish to pass), beverages, and bodies to Bob Swoger's home page (613 Parkside Circle, Streamwood, IL) and be prepared to have some fun, food and fellowship.

Dates: Sept 8, 1996, regardless of the weather. Time: 1:00 PM till...

Call Tony Podraza (847-428-3576), Rob Gibons (847-776-9842), or Bob Swoger (847-837-7957) if you need directions.

Glenside Color Computer Club

A Glenside Publication since 1985
Your Voice in the CoCo Community

CoCo 123 Information

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization whose members share an interest in the Tandy Color Computer ®. The CoCo 123 is the official newsletter of the Glenside Color Computer Club. The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois has no affiliation with Radio Shack ® and/or the Tandy Corporation ®. The opinions expressed by the authors of the articles contained within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, the Executive Officers, or the actual club membership.

We are committed to publishing a minimum of four issues and a maximum of twelve issues per calendar year. For a fee of \$15.00, for January through December, you can become a GCCC member with full membership privileges. Send your dues to:

GEORGE SCHNEEWEISS
RR #2 Box 67
Forrest, IL 61741-9629

Here is a list of the 1996 Executive Officers and how to contact them. The club has four strong SIGs, Tandy Color Computer 1, 2, 3, and OS-9. If you have questions concerning these computers or OS-9 call one of these officers.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Rob Gibbons	847-776-9842	The buck stops here
Vice-President	Eddie Kuns	630-820-3943	Meeting Planning, etc.
Vice-President	Tony Podraza	847-428-3578	-
Vice-President	Sheryl Edwards	630-344-5632	-
Secretary	Paul Knudsen	630-755-3210	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	815-832-5571	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	Mike Wams	630-627-9561	Newsletter coordinator
Telecom	David Barnes	847-587-9820	Club BBS SysOp
Printer	Dennis Devitt	630-628-2016	Newsletter Exchange
Advertising	Bob Swoger	847-578-8088	Newsletter Ads

CoCo 123 Contributions

If you would like to contribute an article, upload a file to the Newsletter Submissions section of the Glenside's Cup of CoCo BBS. Ditto for ads and news about your group. Please include a name and an address or phone number. If you would rather submit your article on diskette, they can be accepted in ASCII form and unformatted in the following formats:

RS-DOS 5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks
OS-9 5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks
MS-DOS Any standard format

Mail your articles to:

Mike Wams
31 South Edgewood Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148

Submission deadline for the CoCo 123 is the 15th of each month. Articles submitted after the deadline will appear in the next issue.

CoCo 123 Newsletter Exchange

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Color Computer or OS-9 user groups at no charge. Send your newsletter to:

Dennis Devitt
21 W 144 Canary Road
Lombard, IL 60148

Reprint Policy

If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members free of charge as we believe that this will encourage better meeting attendance. If you are a user group that feels as we do, please let us know and send us your newsletter. We will then distribute it to our members and keep our attendance up.

Glenside Club Meetings

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Glendale Heights Public Library. A social get-together always occurs afterward at the Springdale Restaurant.

Future meeting dates:

September 12, 1996
October 10, 1996

Editor: Mike Wams
Design, layout, graphics: Walrus House Enterprises

A special tip o' the hat to Dave Barnes and BARSoft Publishing, whose masthead page has been, uh, more than an inspiration for this issue's.

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These are your BBSs. Please support them.

Glenside CoCoRama BBS
847-587-9837
At Least 9600 Baud

SandV BBS
630-352-0948
You want fast? This is FAST!

Glenside's Cup of CoCo
847-428-0436
9600 Baud

Chi-CoCo BBS
312-735-3355
14,400 Baud

Glenside East
847-632-5558
2400 Baud

Hey, officers! Check your area codes (above)
In some cases I guessed!

Excuses, excuses...

by Mike Warns

Some of you have noticed that there have not been any newsletters for a while. Some of you have even cared. Well, if you want a reason, have I got the excuses for you!

Here is my favorite: I was preparing for the Olympics. You see, the athletic-types aren't the only people involved—in the olympics, and I went two better than them: I got paid for not running around Atlanta in the middle of summer. I did not even have to go to Atlanta, missing the weather, the crowds, the rip-offs, and the other unpleasantnesses there.

So, beside starting a home CAD business, I continued with my other sideline: fixing and selling cruddy old IBM computers. This, along with the need to build a new and faster CAD system, left me with long stretches of time with as many as eight computers, not one of which was operable!

Oh, and there were my usual excuses of day job and family.

There were kind offers to take over the job for an issue, but, silly me, I kept thinking I would be able to find the time Real Soon Now. I was wrong, and I apologize.

So, even as I tried to make good on my commitment to publish a newsletter every once in a while, the project seemed doomed. My terminal software refused to download articles from Tony's BBS. The utility I use to strip extraneous characters from the downloaded files (possibly to only use of SNOBOL in the Chicago area!) crashes on my new computer so I had to transfer the files to an old one temporarily (it pays to keep a few of these things around the house for just such a situation!). The new computer hates the old SVGA Windows driver for my old video card, so I am back to plain VGA 3.0. Like I

said, I was doomed. But I soldiered on.

Things have calmed down, at least for now today this moment (the CAD stuff leaves me pretty much "on call.") but I will try to be more realistic about my time and be open to the kind, kind offers of help. In the mean time, submit something for publication!

There is something that anybody who makes a submission can do that will help me out a lot: Do not format your article. No tabs, no margins, no centered lines, no nothing. Straight ASCII, left justified, infinite line lengths, and a blank line between paragraphs.

Let me tell you why, to quote Ross Perot: A typical 4000-byte file takes about forty-five minutes to strip out extraneous characters added by the rather complex process of taking a CoCo file and sending it over a modem to a PC, delete the ten characters in the left margin, delete another five spaces that used to be the tab at the beginning of each paragraph (conversion to ASCII does that), put in a real tab, un-center lines (conversion to ASCII puts in spaces to make it still look centered. ASCII likes spaces.), and delete the carriage returns at the end of each line left over from when the original file was formatted with eighty-character lines.

This doesn't count the time doing the real editorial work: spell checking, little modifications to syntax, etc. By the time you get your newsletter, each article has been through four separate software packages (telecomm, SNOBOL, word processor, and publisher. Anything you can do to make this faster reduces the time between newsletters. Of course, if you cannot, submit anyway. There is no newsletter with no articles.

So, I look forward to simply ripping through the formatting of your next article. Again, I want you to know that your writing ability is not important. It is my job to make you look good. I only ask that you spend a little time on your end taking out all of the formatting that made your article look so good on your eighty-column, monospaced printer.

March 1996 Club Meeting

by Sheryl Edwards
& Paul Knudsen

I was running late to tonight's meeting, and Sheryl Edwards recorded it until I got there. I am going to try to make this as accurate as possible, considering that it appears that most of Sheryl's notes were written in Assembly. Someone is going to have to teach me on how to read her machine language mnemonics.

The meeting began at 8:00 P.M. with introductions of the members, starring Rob Gibons as the president, George Schneeweiss, Bob Swoger, Brian Schubring, Eddie Kuns, Gene Brooks, Howard Luckey, Don Yehling, Mike Warns, Sheryl Edwards, guest starring with her, were Dave and Heather. Also featuring in tonight's performance were Richard Bair, Bob Bruhl, Tony Podraza, Mike Knudsen, Carl Boll, Justin, Paul Knudsen, also introducing Lori Balas as a guest of Paul.

Tonight's old business began with free computer equipment lying on the back table to any member who wanted it. One of the items was an early keyboard that required several strange voltages to make it work, according to Gene, the unit used "hall effect" switches that made it work. Pretty neat device actually.

There are 13 vendors, including George. We have a verbal commitment on 16. (for the FEST!)

Show guides, tickets, buttons and shirts will be available for sale at the Glenside booth.

Tickets will be at the door and there will be a list for people who have paid.

New business began with Eddie Kuns withdrawing from his V.P. role. Mike Knudsen is stepping into his place.

Brian Schubring has news on his MIDI project. The cost to make the boards alone is going to be around 6-\$12, this is not including parts.. These are good quality double sided copper boards. There will be no plated holes on

them, this helps keep the cost of the boards down. Brian is pushing to have them available and ready for the fest.

*** News Flash ***

(Editor's note: Somehow, it seems this news flash should be on the History Channel, or with Walter Cronkite intoning, "And you were there.")

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING IS 2 DAYS BEFORE THE FEST!

Howard Luckey also made an announcement, that Comdex will be in Chicago starting June 3 through the 6th.

In the Spring, Dayton will be have there world's largest computer show.

Brian Schubring made an announcement that he has an internet address. He can be reached at THESCHU@delphi.com

(Editor's Note: The April meeting was so chaotic, with the Fest just two days later, that it looks like nobody took notes. Therefore, we jump to:

May 1996 Club Meeting

by Paul Knudsen

The meeting attendees were (not in any particular order,) Bob Swoger, Richard Bair, George Schneeweiss, Bob Bruhl, Brian Schubring, Gene Brooks, Howard Luckey, Tony Podraza, Miles Westbrook, Mike Warns, and myself.

During this meeting, Tony was filling in for Rob as President. It has been announced, that there will be another CoCoFest next year. The date has also been decided as well. The next fest will be on the 5th and 6th of April next year in '97. Some had also mentioned, that next year, there will be 2 CoCo's in PC cases on display as a demo next year. A quantity of 24 MIDI-Paks, that were built by Brian Schubring, were sold to

consumers during the fest. One MIDI-Pak was sent to Cecil Houk, as a token of thanks. Bob Swoger shared a little tale with us that evening. He claims that he was under orders from his wife, to not buy anything from this years fest. So, he bought his wife a new VGA monitor for her PC. When she received it, she ended up dropping the subject about him not buying anything.

Mike Carey and Brian Schubring are bringing a complete CoCo controlled midi piano. They already have a first request on it. Someone in the meeting had requested Groucho Marx's routine called "I Love the Piano."

Thanks to the efforts of Joel Hegberg, Paul Jerkatis, and Carl Boll, Glenside now has a complete working point of sale system.

CoCoFest totals have been tallied up. On Saturday, 16 memberships were taken and on Sunday we have a total of 9. On Saturday, 51 tee shirts were sold and 52 miscellaneous were recorded.

Howard Luckey announced that Comdex will be coming to Chicago.

Two vendors have already reserved for next year's fest. (Same LOW PRICE! Call Tony for details.)

We are even considering holding a contest for next years artwork for the CoCoFest logo.

We also talked about the possibility of having a CoCo web page.

To wrap things up, we have a positive rumor that Monk-O-Ware has the rights to build the 2-Meg memory boards.

Meet a Vice President With Few Vices

by Tony Podraza

Tony Podraza acquired his first REAL computer in Dec. 1982. Never a programmer, but always a modifier, he soon started burning EPROMs for enhanced Disk Operating Systems on Tandy's CoCo1, then 2, and finally, 3.

He held various offices of the Illinois Color Computer Club of Elgin, IL. between 1984 and 1989, from Treasurer to President. In November, 1990, he accepted the mantle of presidency of the Glenside Color Computer Club from Ed Hathaway. After a three terms, during which GLENSIDE's membership grew from 65-75 local and semi-local members to 218 members internationally, he passed the mantle on to others.

He is the sysop of GLENSIDE's Cup of CoCo BBS, and has been the CoCoFEST! coordinator for the '93 through '96 Chicago-area CoCoFESTs. In real life, he manages the Quality Assurance Department of the Railroad & Industrial Division of Illinois Auto Electric Company in Elmhurst, Illinois, where his passtime knowledge acquired through the the CoCo has played a major role in setting up databases and reports for a more efficient shop operation.

WANTED:

A CHEAP LAPTOP

I cannot resist the call! Contrary to my protestations of the April issue, I have developed a desperate psychological need for some inexpensive, old, wierd laptop along the lines of a Tandy 100 or 102, one of those Sinclair laptops, or some other high point of mid-Eighties technology that is only good for some light text input with modem or serial port. Some system where you won't feel hurt if I offered you under twenty-five bucks for it.

Contact the Editor at:
Mike Warns, 630-627-9561

Real Controversy in CoCoLand!

Editor's note: This whole situation has me feeling uncomfortable. On the one hand, Eric is absolutely right in legal terms: software piracy, however it is justified, is illegal. On the other hand, sometimes it is the only way you can get certain software. The choice I have made is to do without, but I have only taken that path since becoming a parent with a need to set a good example. Writing some software of my own helped me get a better handle on the other side's view, too!

The best way to deal with "orphanware," and the one adopted by the Apple][community, is to track down the owner of a software package's copyright (often this is no longer the author!) and request that the package be placed in the public domain or release it as "freeware," where the author retains copyright but does not charge for it. I would expect that most owners, especially if they are the authors, would rather have their work available again, even for free, than to sit on something which is unlikely to ever again make them any money.

Either way, the path Terry has taken has left him and the other members of his club open to criminal prosecution. Word from some of the aggrieved authors in Canada is that their country, contrary to what Terry may think, is willing to press charges. It would not be the first time an international incident was brought about by copyright infringement! And they have BIG fines! Which the MI&CC (and its members) would be liable for! And our government would agree with! You would not want to lose your house for a copy of VIP Writer, would you?

By the way, some of the language used in both of these statements can be considered inflammatory, even libelous. Neither should be seen as a statement by Glenside or directly reflecting the opinions of either this editor or the Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois, Inc. They are only being published because we consider the issue one of importance to the community. I did take the liberty of checking the spelling on both statements.

Our Community is in Danger

Eric Crichlow with Chet Simpson

CoCO/OS-9/OSK programmers, supporters, and enthusiasts

Our Community is in Danger.

The above statement is sad but true. The most disturbing thing about it is that the danger comes from within the community itself.

There is currently an individual within our community who is using the national users group that he controls and the electronic magazine of which he is editor to distribute, for a fee, programs which are still under copyright and whose authors have not given permission for their distribution. This activity is being conducted under the guise of the term "orphanware" so as to make it seem as though this software has been abandoned and is no longer supported by its authors. Through this users group, through the magazine, and through on-line public forums and the listserv this individual has attempted to convince us that his actions are done in the best interests of the CoCo community and that he maintains a high level of integrity in the administration of the distribution of copyrighted software. I have come to discover, unfortunately, that this is all a ruse.

I have met with Mr. Terry Simons, editor of the Upgrade magazine, treasurer of the Mid Iowa and Country CoCo club (MI&CC) and the individual in question here, face to face. We have discussed this matter at length, and I have come to understand that the things that are being said by him in public are not the truth. In person, Terry Simons has admitted to the questionable ethics of this activity. He has admitted that he only supports the principle underlying his position because it benefits his purpose but that in other situations he doesn't believe in the principles that he argues for here. Most importantly, though, contrary to many numerous on-line statements in which he has said that any authors who wish their software removed from his distribution list will have their wishes respected, in person he has admitted to me that, if such an author did make such a request, whether or not he would discontinue distributing their software would depend upon how important he thought

that software was.

Friends, regardless of how tempting the idea is and how well intentioned Terry Simons makes himself seem, he is, in actuality, a disillusioned man who is doing more harm to this community than good. This issue is driving a greater wedge into this community and driving more software authors away than any other event in this community's history.

I know many of you do not support the illegal distribution of copyrighted software that the MI&CC currently participates in, but you still support the club out of a feeling of loyalty to the community. However, I must inform you that the unfortunate truth is that, by supporting the MI&CC, you are, at the very least, indirectly supporting the illegal and unethical actions which Terry Simons is undertaking on behalf of the club.

I can only urge MI&CC members and all other members of the community to distance themselves away from the MI&CC, the Upgrade magazine, and Terry Simons, and to shift their support to the more reputable national Color Computer organizations, such as the fine groups which continue to make the Chicago and Atlanta Fests possible.

Rebuttal

by Terry Simons,

Mid Iowa & Country CoCo Treasurer & UPGRADE Editor

On Delphi Eric Crichlow began a belligerent string of replies. After repeated tries Eric finally agreed to meet and try to settle our differences of opinion in a civil manner. To keep the conversation candid we both agreed all that was said was to be considered off the record. And I received his word, nothing would go beyond that conversation.

By the very content of Eric's so-called ad, his word was broken, thus proven worthless. So it should not be a surprise to find within it were "outright lies"! Since Eric has opened that doorway, I will point out some just a couple of statements that may clarify the character you were dealing with.

Eric Said:

"As I've said, I'm no angel. When I was on the Color Computer, I used to do all kinds of things."

"When I hear about someone passing copyrighted code, I want to get a gun and go shoot them." (It's worth killing someone?)

"I want to stop this (orphanware) AT ALL COSTS".

"I don't care if it destroys the whole CoCo community"

"I don't usually hang out on Delphi's OS-9 Sig. I came there specifically for this purpose."

Well, Eric came to the fest and sucked Glenside into his flasco, and hasn't been on Delphi's OS-9 Sig since April 16th. To this date May 20, 96. Matter of fact, this is the first and only Fest where Eric has shown any support.

Yes, we have a policy of making (only) software otherwise unavailable, as available to our membership. Not sold but at the same backup/mail price of any PD disks. Any copyright holder's requests to with hold will be honored. IT DOES NO MATTER HOW IMPORTANT THE SOFTWARE IS CONSIDERED TO BE, If a copyright holder asks it to be withdrawn, it would be withdrawn, period!

In short, the frustration of those who disagree with our policy comes from the fact that: while we actively support sales of present vendors, NO DAMAGE OR LOSS TO ANY VENDOR CAN BE SHOWN to abandoned software. While, granted, opinions vary, courts do not grant damages or give sentences on the basis of differing opinions. Just as it is illegal to record on TV show while viewing another, then watching our "illegal copy" later. The matter is so puny, no one will bother. Yes, to the fine point of law that is illegal. But, the matter is so

unrealistic, no one would bother.

What is in question is older Tom Mix, and Diecom games. It is a fact folks: The look-a-likes were illegal at the time they were presented. However our community was so small as compared to the Sega Game and PC market, it wasn't worth the real copyright holders' efforts to stop it. The CoCo community at it's height wasn't big enough to pay proper royalties. ergo: as a matter of "practicality it was SIMPLY OVERLOOKED". Today our community is so small it won't support finding and buying rights from abandoning authors. As a matter of "Practicality. Once again the fine points of the law are SIMPLY OVERLOOKED". I won't say it's right or wrong. It is, the way it was. It is, the way it is.

And it goes without saying, the center Ad in the '96 brochure was by the actions of a few. Our group and myself have many friends in Glenside, and they remain so.

(Publisher's Note: Now you've seen both sides of the coin. You make your own decision. THIS IS THE LAST INVOLVEMENT THAT GLENSIDE WILL HAVE IN THIS MATTER! Our software policy is well-known. Piracy is a wedge that can only hurt our community. If you need a program... ASK around... send a "Want ad" to the CoCo~123... It's free. Accept only originals. Tony Podiga)

1996 5th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFest

(April 13-14, Chicago, Illinois)

by Allen Huffman

formerly of Sub-Etha Software

NOTE: Any discrepancies between what is contained in this report and what is real is not a first. This includes, but is not limited to, names, locations, events (and semaphores), and yellow crayons.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. Fool me five times and, well, I don't really know what to do except, perhaps, go to another "last" CoCoFest. (Where's truth in advertising?)

TIMELINE

A suspect is in custody. They think he is the Unabomber. Meanwhile, Q makes an appearance on Star Trek Voyager, and Microware stock goes public. Life, as they say, is good.

THE DRIVE

My journey to this year's Chicago CoCoFest was by aircraft. Not from Texas, though, nor even from Des Moines. I was working in San Jose, California for the week and my return flight on Saturday was scheduled to take me back to Iowa. Fortunately I was able to pay the difference (about one hundred dollars) and have it redeposit me at O'Hare where I would only have to find a ride to Elgin, location of this year's show (again).

Brother Jeremy was kind enough to meet me at the airport. Upon exiting the plane, I didn't spot the monk, though I suspected if he were around he would most certainly be easy to locate. I made a short walk down towards baggage claim and heard "Allen Huffman please meet your party at baggage claim five". This worked out nicely. I didn't even have to find out which one my luggage would be at. And, it also let me know where to meet the monk.

Timing was perfect all ways around. Even my luggage was already circulating around the loading platform. After a quick greeting, we headed down to the parking garage to locate the new monk-mobile (the previous station wagon was finally traded in). A slight trip out of the way trying to find the right road going West (you have to take East to find it apparently) and we were soon driving up to the Holiday Inn Elgin.

We hit two toll booths. No diesels hit us (see 'lastfest93').

THE ARRIVAL

I had no reservation but already had invitations to split rooms with John Strong or Brother Jeremy. Since it was about 2pm Saturday and the Fest was well underway, I left my gear in the car and we headed into the Fest area. This was the first time I ever had to pay at the door, so to speak, to get in. (Well, this isn't quite true. Sub-Etha was famous for showing up and paying for our booths at or during the show...) Familiar faces - and some not so familiar - were all around as the show immediately looked more busy than the Fests of 95.

I was swamped by about a dozen people greeting me and pulling me (almost literally) in various directions to

see this, answer that, or hear the other. It was a great feeling being around my friends once more. Since I wasn't here for the Friday evening pre-show, I'll leave those details to someone else to submit. (hint, hint, hint...)

THE PRE-SHOW

I believe I just stated I'd leave these details to someone else. Read further, thank you.

THE SHOW AREA

The regular show area was setup as follows:

(Editor's note: Allen drew a lovely floorplan in 80-column, monospaced, text characters. I spent forty-five minutes trying to format it in this stupid software before giving up.)

There was no map in this year's Fest booklet, so I hastily scribbled on the back of some printer paper and drew the basic room layout. So, any errors are certainly my fault.

There were about 19 vendors to my count, though it looks like a few others were actually there mixed in (such as ChiCoCo BBS and the Chicago Area OS-9 Users Group).

And now ... THE VENDORS:

1. Alan Dages - Our representative from the Atlanta Computer Society was there with various recycled CoCo items. There was no word as to if there would be an Atlanta CoCoFest this year. Those interested in visiting Atlanta during this Olympic year, please drop a note to the club.

2. Adventure Survivors - L.E. and Nan were there with a sign asking for help in solving Castle of Thaggorad (the CoCo 3 sequel to Dungeons of Daggorath). They have most everything mapped out, but still have a few parts of the maze to solve. Anyone who's done it, please contact them. And while you are at it, subscribe to their newsletter, which is full of adventure tips as well as general CoCo Community information. During the show, classic games such as Koronis Rift played on their setup, and I finally got to see just what happens when you win that game.

3. Chicago OS-9 Users Group - The localized OS-9 support group had their host BBS system on display.

4. Chicoco BBS - This was the host BBS. It was in a miniserver tower and is owned by Carl "What a Guy" Boll. The system runs a 6309 with NitrOS9, has dual

high speed serial ports (16550), four hard drives, parallel port, PC keyboard, and more wires than one could comfortably count. It weighs in at a reported 150 pounds and is on wheels. Anyone want to challenge Carl for most powerful CoCo? I thought not...

5. Digigrade Productions - Dave Pellerito was unable to get a ride to the show, so his table was empty. I did get to see his point and click MM/1 adventure game. For those familiar with the game Myst (on CD-i, PC, Jaguar, or other platforms), it's full screen digitized color pictures. Clicking on certain items leads you to other rooms, closeups of objects, etc. It's a work in progress and there are plans to put it on a CD-ROM, making it the first MM/1 CD game.

6. Farna Systems - Frank Swygert and his recent bride Tiffany were around offering the new Mastering OS-9 book (the update of Paul Ward's Start OS-9) as well as rare (new) KenTon RS232 paks. The magazine has shrunk in size recently and needs your support. If you don't already subscribe, do so today. The publication will soon feature support for some mini controller boards like the HC11s in an effort to expand the reader base.

7. OS-9 Users Group - This organization publishes the MOTD newsletter and is currently developing a master library of all the OS9UG software as well as the FidoNet hosted OS-9 Community Network (OCN) libraries. It's a wealth of information for OS-9 users, both hobby and industrial. I rejoined.

8. Wittman Computer Products - Bill Wittman was showing off his collection of OSK software as well as the WCP306, a 16mhz OS-9 computer that accepts PC hardware such as VGA and Soundblaster cards. A demo was shown of MGR, a public domain windowing system that is being ported to the 306 machines. It's very slow at this point, but shows much promise, including great font support. You could create multiple shell boxes on the screen, and change the fonts on the fly with sizes from tiny to jumbo. Also seen briefly was an HTML (you know, the stuff WEBs are made of) viewer on the MM/1, and fax software.

LaFax lets you send or receive high resolution faxes and print or display them using Ghostscript. I saw a sample that was transmitted from a postscript file via the MM/1 to a fax machine and the resolution was incredible - much better than what you can do with a

dedicated entry level fax machine.

Bill Wittman is also carrying Zack Session's card games and other goodies, so look him up for a catalog. WCP continues to be the leader of professional presentations at the Fests, including complete point of sell systems running under OSK with barcode readers and receipt printers.

9. Northern Xposure - Ken Scales and Colin McKay made the trek downwards, but Alan DeKok was unable to join. He was left at the airport when he couldn't prove he was born (no birth certificate on him, nor a passport). It's a pity we aren't more open with our northern neighbors.

NX was taking orders for the AT keyboard adapter - if enough are requested, they will make another batch. The latest version of NitrOS9 was also available, and the patches that have been done in the last month or so are staggering. Text and graphics screens are greatly accelerated (faster than stock MM/1 screens). In fact, the CoCo at 1.83mhz scrolls text under NitrOS9 now much faster than a 386/16mhz under MS-DOS that I saw just the other evening. Intel inside. Heh.

10. R.C. Smith - Another Georgian offering recycled computer items. Nuf said. I don't often pay much attention at the hardware tables, so there are probably some interesting items I missed noticing.

11. Ron Bull - Representing Rick Cooper (and would have been offering Sub-Etha Software had I made the masters in time), Ron Bull was on hand often assisted by Paul Zimalla ... Zimbila ... Zomballa ... (something like that). Ron and Paul both have interesting new CoCo repacks, and Paul is offering his repack service and other upgrades to those interested.

12. S-Bug of Los Angeles - Another fixture of the Fests, Andre Lavelle was around with hard drives, floppies, books, ROM-paks, and other gadgets. I picked up another floppy drive from him, and also have my eye on some printer buffers (128k) he has. Of interest, Andre has a stack of the old CoCo protoboards for the expansion port - ready to be stuffed and wirewrapped for the CoCo hacker wanting to build custom circuits. It's been quite a while since I have seen these. For old times sake, I picked up a 3.5" floppy drive with mounting kit for my CoCo (dejavu from the 1993 Mid America Iowa Fest).

13. StrongWare - John Strong, Charlie, Don Adams and, well, the entire Team OS-9 crew were around to show CoCo games and MM/1 drawing programs. SPaint has been updated recently in it's continuing evolution towards completion. CoCo HPrint font editors, and puzzler games such as GEMS (Columns) and Soviet Bloc (Tetris) are still available.

14. CoCo Cellar - See Al Dages or R.C. Smith. More CoCo recyclables.

15. Glenside CoCo Club - The host club with two color t-shirts (which Sub-Etha was honored to be one of the four vendors listed in the artwork. The others included Hawksoft, Strongware, and Farna). Many colors of Fest buttons were also available.

Of particular interest was Glenside's attempt to bring MIDI back to the CoCo. Rights have been established to produce the old CoCo MIDI hardware pak (sold by Speech Systems and Rulaford Research, among others). The paks were offered for \$20 and include MIDI IN, OUT, and THRU in a full size drive controller sized case. Stacks of these paks were sold at this amazing price, and I will most likely donate my old Midi software (sold through Rulaford Research back in the 80s) to them.

16. Hawksoft - Chris and Nancy showed up again with CD-ROM drivers for OSK machines, sound editors, keyboard cables for the CoCo, and even an early peek at an MGR desktop manager item for the AT306 machines. If more of the classic OSK vendors jump onboard with MGR we may very well finally see the windowing applications we've been trying to pull out of K-Windows and MultiVue for years.

17. John Brown - Hazelwood Computer Systems were on hand with hardware and software, including some items not commonly seen at the CoCoFest. Originating from Texas, it figures we have someone else from down South attending when I'm no longer organizing the big vanloads of Fest travelers for the mega-trips.

18. Justin Time - Justin Wagner and more recycled CoCo items. (I should make a macro for this.)

19. Monk-O-Ware - Brother Jeremy made his first official Fest appearance, showing the old CoCo prototypes he has collected, and something very few have ever heard of - an ETHERNET ADAPTER for the CoCo 3, complete with ROM that powered up wanting to connect with a network. What was this

device for? Who made it? Why? There and many other questions can only be answered by those who aren't telling.

Also on display was a very interesting version of OS-9, featuring RESIZEABLE windows that could be moved anywhere on the screen or shrunk down to icons. Several graphical demos ran at the same time, all on a stock 6809 system. Hopefully some of the items shown here will inspire the NitrOS9 authors to move towards adding this kind of functionality to it.

20. MIDI Demonstration Corner - Loud, powerful and impressive. And that's all I have to say about that.

Other Fest mentionables included nice vinyl vendor signs which were hung from the ceiling with care, as last year, and the year before. Tables were clothed with white coverings. Vendors and attendees sported different colored name badges, and shopping bags with multicolored Fest booklets were handed out at admissions.

SOMETHING WORTH MENTIONING

Something worth mentioning was "WANTED" posters made up and displayed in various locations around (and even outside of) the Fest location. A digitized picture of Terry Simons (of the Mid Iowa & Country CoCo Club) was posted for the "orphanware" items his club distributes. While most people (including Terry) will acknowledge the legal issues of copying software (whether it be 15 years old and no longer available anywhere else, or otherwise), some are going further to make statements about this (which has, reportedly, brought enough attention to the act to actually increase activity. Bad publicity seems to have that side effect most of the time. Ban a book because it's improper, and see if it goes to the best sellers list.)

Also published in the Fest booklets was a two page letter from Eric Crichlow entitled "Our Community Is In Danger". I would include the entire text here if I felt like typing it all in (Editor's note: I did the typing, and it is elsewhere in this issue, along with a reply from Terry Simons), but instead I'll just quote some of the lines. Basically, the message said that Terry and Eric had met face to face and, according to Eric, Terry said that if a copyright holder wanted his software removed from their "orphanware" library that the club might or might not do so depending upon how important they thought the software was.

I spoke with Terry about these comments and he tells a different version of what he actually said, so feel free

to do your own research, claiming it was a hypothetical situation not based on anything that might actually happen. Terry points out that he can't see any CoCo software so irreplaceable to be worthy of these actions, though admits ColorWare's Max items come close (and the club still has many original copies to sell used). I don't have any reason to believe either party would lie, so I suspect some miscommunication has happened here. Since this is my report <g> I'll just say I have no personal fears of Terry ever adding any of my software to his library against my will (and I'm not even a member of the club, though was up until a year ago or so).

Other comments mentioned that the activities of the club were "driving more software authors away than any other event in this community's history". While perhaps some have indeed left due to "orphanware" (I cannot say either way), I would personally like to muse that Tandy discontinuing the CoCo several years ago probably had a slightly greater impact in making authors leave our market. But then, I think like that sometimes :)

The letter ended with a plea for members and supporters of this club to "distance themselves away from the MI&CC, the Upgrade magazine and Terry Simons, and to shift their support to the more reputable national Color Computer organizations, such as the fine groups which continue to make Chicago and Atlanta Fests possible."

While no specific clubs were mentioned, I'll add that the Atlanta Computer Society and Glenside Color Computer Club are great ones to belong to. While I don't believe any other existing CoCo group offers as much for Disk Basic members of our community as MI&CC (since the fact is that the other clubs are primarily OS-9 related), there are other RS-DOS items out there such as Rick Cooper's CoCo Friends disk collection and his new CoCo Report printed newsletter. If you are unhappy with the practice of a club you belong to, just remember that there are other options for support. Don't give up!

The letter concluded "Long live our community. Eric Crichlow, CoCo/OS-9/OSK programmer, supporter and enthusiast". This was followed by a paragraph disclaimer from Glenside, stating that "This was a article paid for by Eric Crichlow himself. It is the policy of the Glenside Color Computer Club to prohibit any type of software piracy as noted elsewhere in this Fest Guide. The Published and

Editor's of the Fest Guide felt that this article was in keeping with the club's policies and is solely responsible for the article's being published."

Food for thought. However, no matter how "bad" things are in our community, I still feel we have the best group of people to be found. Even during the days of The Inner Circle and other mass pirate groups, I suspect our percentage of piracy versus sold products was still small compared to many other platforms. And, indeed, we have survived longer than these other platforms. I think that says a lot for the type of people we attract and keep, so many years after the end of our "TV set computer" era.

THE SEMINARS

Seminars were not listed in the booklet, but here is what we came up with from memory. Question marks indicate memory failures, possibly due to bad parity bits.

Saturday:

?:?: - "MIDI on the CoCo"

This seminar was apparently about MIDI on the CoCo.

?:?: - "No Minimum Bid Auction"

What do you expect for a buck? (or less)

?:?: - "Frank Swygert on the CoCo Community"

Farna speaks out on where we are headed.

?:?: - "Open OS-9 Forum moderated by John Strong"

Items such as a web page containing links to all OS-9 sites as well as other future projects were put into motion.

?:?: - "OS-9 Users Group Fest Meeting"

Discussions of plans to compile a master library of all known OS-9 shareware from the U.S. and overseas, as well as putting the OS-9 Users Group scholarship program into motion.

Sunday:

08:45 - "Brother Jeremy's Sunday Service"

Our own monk, Brother Jeremy, held a non-denominational prayer service for those who wish to join and worship. It was later than previous years and I was able to attend without being too late. A first for me, and a very nice experience.

?:?: - "MIDI on the CoCo"

Not sure what this one was about.

?:?: - "No Minimum Bid Auction"

It was a little yellow, but it was free.

THE EVENINGS

After shutting down on Saturday, I spent the evening talking with friends in the bar and playing darts (unlike past years, I actually won a game or two). Though not as packed as previous years there was still enough people to keep things interesting. There were also dinner plans at a local brewpub/restaurant which was costly and only marginally enjoyable for myself. Their brew was nice, though, and the atmosphere was great. We had 28 people at the main table (with a few other tables around us with friends of the organizer, Paul Jerkatis) and the total bill was just under \$700. Due to not taking into consideration Illinois taxes, it looks like Paul paid more than his fair share. I suppose that's okay. He makes good money somehow linked to cardboard...er, corrugated boxes.

Later that night a group of us were able to call Scott Griepentrog (Mr. StG-Net) in Australia where he was stuck working and making incredible amounts of money. This was one of the first Fests he has missed, and it was sad not having him around to amaze us with his toys. I was able to find out about his latest gadget - a video still camera. Later, in Paul's room, we saw some pictures taken by Scott and uploaded to Paul via the internet. Ah, technology.

Sunday evening was a split between the traditional Mongolian Barbecue and some form of country buffet. Since Mongolian was a drive away, and since Scott Griepentrog (it's founder) wasn't here, many of us went instead to the buffet to eat all we could. Dinner was typical of Fest gatherings, though tables keep getting longer and longer each time to hold even more people than the year before. After this, farewells were said and we parted company one more time. Shows get smaller, the dinners get larger. The logic here amazes me.

SUMMARY

It looked like more people were here than the shows of 1995 which is a good sign. A few less vendors than last year, which is a bad sign. How well the vendors did I do not know since, for once, I wasn't one of them. However, things were good enough for

Glenside to announce a show NEXT YEAR, April 5-6th I believe. Indeed. Will this ever end?

It was fun, and probably better than the last two shows. Still, some people were missed. I personally missed Budgetware since I still have money to spend with them when they finally show back up...

RUMORS

MM/1 HTML. A GUI for the 306. EthaWin library for termcap (yes, pulldown menus and stuff for non MM/1 OSK boxes). File managers for writeable CD-ROMs. CoCo IDE. 1-800 CoCo information hotline. OS-9000 for the masses. And more...

THE RETURN

After Sunday dinner, I caught a ride with Joel Hegberg. The five hour drive home took us through DeKalb to visit with Dave Pellerito and find out why he didn't get to attend. The rest of the trip was uneventful, sparked only by hearing a few new remakes of the famous Saturday morning Schoolhouse Rock songs (Conjunction Junction, and the adverbs song). Ah, life is good.

We arrived back in Waukeet (a little town right outside of Des Moines) around 2am with enough time to sleep a few hours before reporting to work the next morning.

DISCLAIMER

I sorta took notes, but that doesn't mean anything. Let me insert a generic disclaimer here instead:

I know nothing.

THANKS

Thanks, Glenside, for continuing support where others have stopped. Thanks John Strong for allowing me to split the room with you. Thanks Adventure Survivors for the wine. Thanks Colin McKay for the "extended credit" offer. Thanks Brother Jeremy for the friendship and the ride. Thanks to those taking a stand against software piracy. And thanks to everyone else whom I've not included here for not griping about it.

Allen C. Huffman, formerly of Sub-Etha Software

COCO-SYSOP on Genie

coco-sysop@genie.geis.com on the Internet (or allen-h@microware.com)

P.O. Box 22031 / Des Moines, IA 50325

FUTURE FESTS

The only scheduled Fest is Chicago 1997, though there was talk of a possible summerfest in PA or maybe some kind of Georgia based microfest.

Summer 1996 - ??? ??? ???

April 5-6, 1997 - 7th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!

Fest planners, contact me. We need to talk.

SPECIAL OFFER

I will help raise funds to get a "name brand" CoCo guru to the next Fest. Someone such as Kevin Darling, Marty Goodman, Steve Bjork or the like would certainly be a nice addition and potential traffic draw. Any club want to get in touch with me about this?

THE END

Until we meet again...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Allen Huffman has been a loyal CoCoist since about 1982. He started with a gray-case CoCo 1 (E board, upgraded to 64K and lowercase) and has progressed through the years from there. In 1990 he co-founded Sub-Etha Software with Terry Todd and has brought several programs to the market including RulaFord Research's K1 Midi Librarian, and Sub-Etha's own MiniBanners and Towel. He has attended every CoCoFest since 1990 and written reports on all but the initial 1990 Atlanta show.

Allen has contributed to UpTime, OS-9 Underground, the world of '68 micros, and various newsletters around the country and has had several letters published in The Rainbow (including one which prompted them to reprint their first 2-page issue). He also serves as Color Computer SysOp in the Tandy RoundTable on Genie and has been mentioned in The Computer Shopper for this position.

Allen now works for Microware as a technical training engineer teaching OS-9 classes and lives just outside of Des Moines, Iowa with his CoCos (1, 2 and 3), MM/1

*Aren't you the guy who
bought that neat soft-
ware for your CoCo?
Why not bring it next
meeting for a demo?*



June Meeting Minutes

by Rob Gibons

In that the Club Secretary was unable to attend June's meet, I'm taking the opportunity to combine this month's minutes with my comments for the Presidents /term.

The meeting began with the traditional introductions.

The first item on the agenda were questions as to what was happening with the newsletter. In as Mike Warns was not in attendance, no answers were forthcoming.

The next item of discussion was the 1997 Fest. It was determined that plans for next year's Fest must begin as soon as possible. We need to form a committee and get going on promoting the Fest. Brian Shubring volunteered to investigate possible advertising in various magazines, packet BBS's, on the Internet (WWW), cable TV, local papers etc. Thanks Brian, you always come through and we all appreciate your efforts. Suggestions for a Keynote Speaker were made. The suggestions were Marty Goodman, Kevin Darling, Tony DiStefano, Bob Van der Poel and Alan DeKok. Also it was suggested that the subjects of the seminars be determined as soon as possible so that they may be included in any advertising.

The next Mike Knudsen mentioned CoCo page on the World Wide Web. The URL for this page is:

<http://www.sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca/~ab594/coco.html>

is authored by Markus Blumrich and has links to other CoCo related items. If you have access to the Web, check it out!

This year's Picnic was mentioned, but as none of the relevant people were present, no actions were taken. We want to start promoting the Picnic so that this year's turnout might be higher. To anyone who has not attended, it's always a lot of fun, and while CoCo's are the subject of much discussion, that's NOT all we do!

Next, the intention of possibly placing a downloadable version of the CoCo~1-2-3 on the club sponsored BBS's was announced. Details on it's form are still being hammered out, and of course we have to discuss this with the Editor. At this point in the meeting I asked for volunteers to help Mike in any way Mike deems fit, to get the newsletter out. Perhaps someone to

prompt, push, bully the president and others into getting their articles submitted in a timely manner, help with reproduction, etc. Mike, we want to help if we can, let us know what we can do to help.

The Software Database project headed by Bob Swoger is on hold until July. Bob is going to be working with Brother Jeremy and other members of the CoCo community on this one. Bob check with Markus Blumrich (see his web page mentioned above), he is trying to locate "Classic CoCo Authors" and may have some info for you.

It was also suggested by Brian that data may be collected on the club sponsored BBS's through some sort of menu/form. Details on this will have to be worked out with the various Sysops.

This was the end of official business for the night and a break was taken followed by the night's demo.

The demo for that night was presented by Rich Baer. Rich has a MGB Parts business and wanted to keep a computerized inventory. This was the original reason he purchased a CoCo. Rich was kind enough to demo his self authored program. Written in a combination of basic and machine code, the program was fast, did exactly what he intended it to do and was very professional in appearance. More than one member was impressed by Rich's method of keeping all the data in memory by his own compression technique. His use of OS9 to write and compile the machine code then hand enter it back into the basic program in HEX form had more than one head swimming just considering the difficulty of his accomplishment. All in all, it was a good demo of great programming. Perhaps Rich will demo other programs of his at future meetings.

As for future demos, Rich just happened to have his program with him that night and was kind enough to share it with us. If anyone else has a program or perhaps a hardware project he or she would like to share, please just bring it along to a meeting and let me know. It does not have to be something you authored yourself, maybe you ran across a shareware program or a commercial product you love, let us in on it. We are always interested in the projects and interests of our members!

At the end of the demo, we packed up and went to the restaurant for the usual good food and conversation, ending the meeting.

Adding a 3-1/2" Floppy

by Luis E. Tanon

First of all hello to everyone, and hope that somebody can help with this one. I am looking for a disk drive to add to my FD-502 drive. If it is a 3-1/2 inch it would be even better. I only have the 5-1/4 inch drive that came with the unit, and I would like to add a second drive. I tried to hook the 3-1/2 drive from my PC, but with no luck. If anyone can help with this, just leave me a message here. Thanks for the help.

Dear Luis,

I will refer you to the October, 1995 issue of this very newsletter for a complete answer to your question, but here it is a nutshell: Use the CoCo cable with an adaptor for the connector (not an IBM cable), make sure that pin one is properly oriented on the adaptor (it may not be, so flip it over if it doesn't work), and get a different drive. The 1.44m drive you probably pulled from that IBM will not work; you need a 720k drive, instead. Just like how IBM's 1.2m drives don't work on the CoCo: they both need a different controller. The 720k drives are not high when you buy them used—most people don't want them these days.

Good Luck!

Mike Warns, Editor

Where to Get 6309's

by Paul Knudsen

Here's the list people. The following places can be contacted for HD63B09EP's ←This is the correct part number right, because they have HD63B09's, HD63B09E's and HD63B09EP's. I hate to have ordered the wrong part, especially to of them for \$14.24. Anyways, the following places can be contacted to order this part.

All of them by the way, are in the northwest suburbs.

Marsh (708)-303-0100

Marshall (708)-490-0100

Milgray (708)-202-1900

Sterling (708)-303-9900 ← Where I ordered mine from.

REPTRON (708)-882-1700

Well, I hope these places help you, because for some reason they expected me to be a "company", but I got these number from Sumer Inc., in which Hitachi Sales Corp. of America referred me to. Good Luck!



COOL STUFF-GREAT PRICES

ALPS 24-pin DMP, wide-carriage with a power supply problem, color. Price? Free to even a BAD home.

Coco 3 system: 512K, DCM, MPI, 2 floppies, monitor, DMP-130 printer, controllers, software and other things. Not free...but cheap.

Coco 2 with a bad 6809 in it (locks up) 64k. Free!

TRS-80 Model 1...no drives just the system IF anyone wants it to play with. Free!

Rainbow mags...rainbow on disk...other stuff.

Bill Beissert

117 Cordova Road, Carpentersville, IL 60110

847-428-4629

Meeting Location:

Glenside Public Library
25 West Fullerton Avenue
Glendale Heights, Illinois 60172

Directions:

The Library is on Fullerton Avenue, about one-half mile West of Bloomindale Road. Fullerton is about one mile South of Army Trail Road and about one mile North of North Avenue (Route 64). Bloomingdale Road is about two miles West of Route 53/I-355/the North-South Tollway.

Next Meeting Date
September 12, 1996
October 10, 1996

Glenside Color Computer Club
31 South Edgewood Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148

